

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 30 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1 to 30 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicants maintain the right to prosecute the canceled claims in any related application claiming the benefit of priority of the subject application. New claims 31 to 53 have been added. Accordingly, upon entry of the Amendment claims 31 to 53 are pending. Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary Amendment prior to examination of the application on the merits.

Support for new claims 31 to 53 can be found throughout the specification. For example, claim 31 is supported by originally filed claim 24. Claims 32 and 33 are supported, for example, by originally filed claim 25. Claim 34 is supported, for example, at pages 64 and 65. In particular, with respect to the mature portion of the heavy chain variable region, the specification discloses that "In the amino acid sequence, the H-chain variable region ranges from the N-terminus of SEQ ID NO:48 to the 147th serine (S) residue, and the constant region is of the 148th alanine (A) and the following residues." (page 64, last paragraph, lines 4-6). The specification also discloses that "It is thought that the N-terminus of the mature protein is the 27th glutamine Q of SEQ ID NO:48." (see page 65, lines 1-2). Thus, the recitation of "from the 27th Q residue to the 147th S residue of SEQ ID NO:48" in claim 34 is supported by the specification. With respect to the mature portion of the light chain variable region, the specification discloses that "It is thought that the N-terminus of the mature protein is the 21st alanine (A) of SEQ ID NO: 50." (page 65, second paragraph, last two lines). However, the 21st position of SEQ ID NO:50 is arginine (R) and not alanine (A) (see page 66, SEQ ID NO:50). Furthermore, the specification discloses that "It was predicted by gene sequence prediction software (Signal P ver.2) that the L-chain signal sequence ranges from the N-terminus to the 22nd cysteine (C) of SEQ ID NO: 50." (page 65, lines 7 to 9). The signal sequence of a protein never overlaps the mature portion of the protein. Moreover, the 22nd position of SEQ ID NO:50 is cysteine (C). Accordingly, reference to "the 21st alanine (A) of SEQ ID NO:50" at page 65, second paragraph, is an obvious error and the alanine (A) referred to in this passage is actually located at the 23rd position of SEQ ID NO:50. Thus, the recitation of "the 23rd A residue to the 128th K residue of SEQ ID NO:50" in claim 34 is supported by the specification.

Claim 35 is supported, for example, at page 15, last line, to page 16, lines 1-2. Claims 36, 37 and 38 are supported, for example, by originally filed claims 27, 28 and 30. Claim 38 is also supported, for example, at page 26, last two paragraphs, through page 27, first paragraph. Claim 39 is supported, for example, at page 14. Claim 40 is supported, for example, by originally filed claim 24. Claims 41 to 46 are supported, for example, at page 16, first full paragraph ("20"). Claim 47 is supported, for example, at page 19, last paragraph. Claim 48 is supported, for example, by originally filed claim 26.

Claim 49 is supported, for example, at pages 64 and 65. In particular, with respect to the heavy chain variable region, the specification discloses that "The translation initiation point of the H-chain DNA is an ATG codon that begins from the 16th adenine (A) from the 5' end of SEQ ID NO: 47. The boundary of the antibody variable region and the constant region is located between the 456th adenine (A) and the 457th guanine (G) from the 5' end." (page 64, last paragraph, lines 1-4). The specification also discloses that "It was predicted by gene sequence prediction software (Signal P ver.2) that the H-chain signal sequence ranges from the N-terminus to the 26th serine (S) of SEQ ID NO: 48. It is thought that the N-terminus of the mature protein is the 27th glutamine (Q) of SEQ ID NO: 48." (page 64, last line, to page 65, line 2). The 27th glutamine (Q) of SEQ ID NO:48 corresponds to the triplet codon "CAG" from the 94th C to the 96th G of SEQ ID NO:47. Thus, the recitation of "from the 94th C to the 456th A of SEQ ID NO:47" in claim 49 is supported by the specification. With respect to the light chain variable region, the specification discloses that "The translation initiation point of the L-chain DNA is an ATG codon that begins from the 59th A from the 5' end of SEQ ID NO: 49, and the variable region ranges from the 5' end to the 442nd adenine (A)." (page 65, lines 3-7). The specification also discloses that "It was predicted by gene sequence prediction software (Signal P ver.2) that the L-chain signal sequence ranges from the N-terminus to the 22nd cysteine (C) of SEQ ID NO: 50. It is thought that the N-terminus of the mature protein is the 21st alanine (A) of SEQ ID NO: 50." (page 65, first full paragraph). As discussed above, the N-terminus of the mature portion of the light-chain is alanine (A) at the 23rd position. The 23rd alanine (A) of SEQ ID NO:50 corresponds to the triplet codon "GCC" from the 125th G to the 127th C of SEQ ID NO:49. Thus, the recitation of "from the 125th G to the 442nd A of SEQ ID NO:49" in claim 49 is supported by the specification.

Claim 50 is supported, for example, at page 19, last paragraph. Claims 51 and 52 are supported, for example, by claims 24 and 25, respectively. Claim 53 is supported, for example, at page 27, first paragraph.

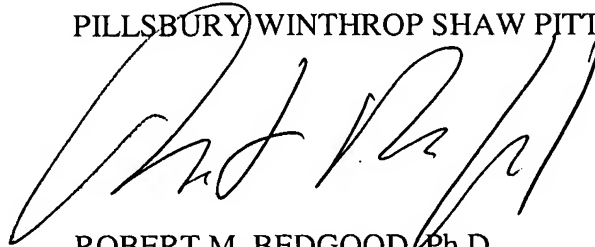
In view of the foregoing, claims 31 to 53 are supported by the specification. Accordingly, claims 31 to 53 do not add new matter and entry thereof is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

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Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP



ROBERT M. BEDGOOD, Ph.D.
Reg. No. 43,488
Tel. No. 858 509.4065
Fax No. 858 509.4010

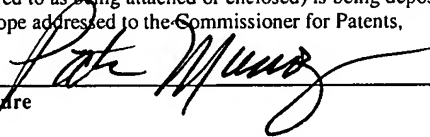
Date: January 17, 2006
11682 El Camino Real
Suite 200
San Diego, CA 92130-2092
(619) 234-5000

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